



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/724,845	12/01/2003	Robert W. Wisniewski	YOR920030535US1	2172
29683 7590 10/09/2007 HARRINGTON & SMITH, PC 4 RESEARCH DRIVE SHELTON, CT 06484-6212			EXAMINER WALSH, JOHN B	
			ART UNIT 2151	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 10/09/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

80

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/724,845	Applicant(s) WISNIEWSKI ET AL.	
	Examiner John B. Walsh	Art Unit 2151	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-36 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-36 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 12 July 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>12/1/03</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claims 14 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 14 and 15 are indefinite since it is unclear if the language inside the parenthesis is intended to limit the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 1-14 and 16-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. PGPUB 2002/0095454 to Reed.

As concerns claim 1, a communication system comprising: a database (0090-database 11; 32) adapted to store communication tag information of a task tag; and a database agent (0031;0090) adapted to determine if a communication has the task tag, wherein the database agent is adapted to transfer predetermined communication tag information of the task tag of the

Art Unit: 2151

communication to the database, and wherein the database agent is adapted to automatically send a communication based upon information stored in the predetermined communication tag information.

As concerns claim 2, a communication system as in claim 1 wherein the communication comprises an email (0090) and the database agent adapted to determine if the email has a task tag.

As concerns claim 3, communication system as in claim 1 wherein the task tag comprises a task topic and a task reminder (0180), and wherein the database agent is adapted to transfer the task reminder to the database.

As concerns claim 4, a communication system as in claim 3 wherein the database agent (0031;0090) is adapted to transfer the task topic to the database with the task reminder.

As concerns claim 5, a communication system as in claim 3 wherein the database agent (0031;0090) is adapted to store the task reminder in the database corresponding to a task topic already stored in the database.

As concerns claim 6, a communication system as in claim 1 wherein the database agent (0031;0090) is adapted to generate a report based upon communication tag information stored in the database.

As concerns claim 7, a communication system as in claim 6 wherein the database agent (0031;0090) is adapted to automatically generate the report based upon a predetermined event.

As concerns claim 8, a communication system as in claim 6 wherein the database agent (0031;0090) is adapted to generate the report based upon a request submitted by a user.

As concerns claim 9, a communication system as in claim 1 wherein the communication tag information comprises an importance factor (0294,0318-preference,0322), and wherein the database agent is adapted to prioritize at least a portion of the communication tag information based upon the importance of factors of the communication tag information stored in the database.

As concerns claim 10, a communication system as in claim 1 wherein the database agent (0031;0090) is adapted to automatically obtain information relating to the communication tag information from a remote computer.

As concerns claim 11, a communication system as in claim 1 wherein the database agent (0031;0090) is adapted to collate at least a portion of the communication tag information stored in the database.

As concerns claim 12, a communication system as in claim 1 wherein the communication tag information comprises a deliverable/project tag information (0439), and wherein the database agent is adapted to transfer deliverable/project tag information of the task tag of the communication to the database.

As concerns claims 1-12, it has been held that the recitation that an element is "adapted to" perform a function is not a positive limitation but only requires the ability to so perform. It does not constitute a limitation in any patentable sense. In re Hutchison, 69 USPQ 138.

As concerns claim 13, a method for automatically tracking progress of a task on a computer network consisting of one or more users on a plurality of computer systems, the method comprising step of: tagging a communication to be delivered between the computer

Art Unit: 2151

systems over the network to form a tagged communication (0090-email); and acting on the tagged communication automatically by a database agent (0031;0090).

As concerns claim 14, a method as in claim 13 where the tagged communication includes an electronic mail communication (email) (0090).

As concerns claim 16, a method as in claim 13 where the tagged communication includes a telephone message converted to electronic communication with the use of voice-recognition software (0536).

As concerns claim 17, a method as in claim 13 wherein the step of acting involves storing the task in the database (0090).

As concerns claim 18, a method as in claim 13 where the step of acting involves updating information about the task in the database (0090).

As concerns claim 19, a method as in claim 13 where the step of acting involves generating a report (0408,0409).

As concerns claims 20 and 22, a method as in claim 13 where the users are selected from a group consisting of individuals (users are inherently individuals), collaborators, team leaders and managers.

As concerns claim 21, a method as in claim 13 wherein the users include other computer programs, and wherein the other computer programs produce data including computer usage at a present or remote site (inherent for computer programs to produce data in view of computer usage), manufacturing yield, or customer purchasing patterns.

As concerns claim 23, a method as in claim 13 wherein an importance of the task on the tag is set and negotiated by the users (0294,0318,0322).

Art Unit: 2151

As concerns claim 24, a method as in claim 13 wherein a time duration (0398-time intervals) of the task on the tag is set and negotiated by the users.

As concerns claim 25, a method as in claim 13 wherein the step of acting involves merging communications from various tasks into one communication for a single task (0520).

As concerns claim 26, a method as in claim 13 wherein the step of acting involves separating communications from one task into several communications for separate tasks (0519-multiuser database).

As concerns claim 27, a method as in claim 13 wherein the step of acting involves monitoring a task deadline (0398) and being proactive in sending communication to humans and computers participating in the task (0318).

As concerns claim 28, a method as in claim 13 wherein tag properties on the communication include time to task completion, task progress, task topic, reminder interval, and collaborator type (0398).

As concerns claim 29, a method as in claim 13 wherein choices for tagging the communication include a tag property of a task progress which selected from a group consisting of previous, new, in-progress, complete, other (0090-other which can be anything).

As concerns claim 30, a method as in claim 13 wherein choices for tagging the communication include a tag property of a collaborator type which can be selected from a group consisting of individual (users tagged), collaborator, team leader, manager, senior manager, vice-president, CEO, CIO, contractor.

Art Unit: 2151

As concerns claim 31, a method as in claim 13 wherein permissions may be associated with the task restricting viewing of the task only to users with appropriate access credentials (0357-ID).

As concerns claim 32, a method as in claim 13 wherein the step of tagging a communication comprises adding deliverable/project information and task information to the communication (0090-0093).

As concerns claim 33, a system for tracking tasks comprising: a communication system (network) adapted to attach a task tag to a communication; and a tracking system (0090) separate from a communication sending computer and a communication receiving computer which is adapted to automatically enter predetermined information of the task tag of the communication into a database. It has been held that the recitation that an element is "adapted to" perform a function is not a positive limitation but only requires the ability to so perform. It does not constitute a limitation in any patentable sense. In re Hutchison, 69 USPQ 138.

As concerns claim 34, a method of tracking tasks comprising: sending a communication; attaching a task tag (0090;0180;0093) to the communication; recording, by an automatic database agent (0031,0090-program), at least a portion of data in the task tag into a database (0090); and automatically sending a communication by the automatic database agent based, at least partially, on the data in the task tag.

As concerns claim 35, a program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodied in a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps for tracking tasks, the method comprising steps of: searching a first communication to determine if the first communication has a task tag (0090;0180;0093), the task tag comprising a task topic

Art Unit: 2151

and a task progress; and automatically sending a second communication by an automated database agent (0031;0090-program) based upon data in the task tag.

As concerns claim 36, a program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodied in a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps for tracking tasks, the method comprising steps of: creating a communication (0090-email); and attaching a task tag (0090;0180;0093) to the communication comprising a task topic and a task progress.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. PG PUB 2002/0095454 to Reed in view of U.S. Patent No. 2004/0030741 to Wolton et al.

Reed does not explicitly disclose an instant electronic message (IM).

Wolton et al. teach instant messaging (abstract-last 4 lines).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to provide instant messaging, as taught by Wolton et al., in order to provide a means of communicating quicker. Such a modification is merely a combination of known elements providing expected results.

Art Unit: 2151


Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. See PTO-892.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John B. Walsh whose telephone number is 571-272-7063. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 7:00-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Valencia Martin-Wallace can be reached on 571-272-3440. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


John B. Walsh
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2151